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Academic Affairs update: Thursday, April 30, 2020

1 message

UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>
 To: Robin Delcourt <audesse@maine.edu>
 Bcc: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Thu, Apr 30, 2020 at 4:10 PM

Good day to you all:

These are the last few days of the spring 2020 term and I hope you are looking forward to the closure that submitting grades provides. You have done a remarkable job of shepherding our students at UMaine and UMaine-Machias. Thank you.

May 1 is the deadline for "w" and for selection of pass/fail. As of April 27, 361 students (about 3%) had selected the pass/fail option for one or more courses. This will appear on your grade submissions as that option. As of last Friday, 271 had elected to withdraw from a course at UMaine, which compares to 800–900 in a regular spring term. Again, you are doing a remarkable job of keeping our students on track and with us to complete this term.

From our weekly discipline in Academic Affairs of submitting news, I thought you might enjoy a brief glimpse from each area from this past week:

- **MBS Hosts *Credentialing Night***. Current students heard about pathways to professional credentials, including CPA and CFA, from professionals from firms across Maine, some of whom are alumni.
- Three students in CLAS have been named finalists or alternates for prestigious **Boren fellowships** and scholarships for the intensive study of language and culture. Melissa Garand, awarded a Fellowship to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan. Dakota Gramour, a Fellowship to study Polish in Krakow. Marco D'Amato, is an alternate to study Turkish in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- For NSFA: The new **UMaine Fisheries Learning Network** will bring together an international team to help protect China's marine fish populations. The project, spearheaded by Yong Chen, professor of fisheries population dynamics, and Bowen Chang, coordinator of the new network, received a grant from the Paradise International Foundation. Adapted from [UMaine news](#).
- Because of COVID-19, the **Maine 4-H Program** held the first-ever statewide virtual Public Speaking Tournament. On Saturday, April 25, youth from across the state participated. The awards ceremony was streamed and [recorded](#).
- On Friday, 68 **pre-service teachers** in the CEHD will finish their 600-hour student teaching placements and meet requirements for graduation and for recommendation to the Maine Department of Education for initial teacher certification. UMaine student teachers are placed in more than 60 schools in over 30 communities across Maine.
- DLL has a new **Summer Start Program** for incoming first-year students, where they will be able to select courses from an established list that meets general education requirements, and register for a 1-credit first-year success course in the June/July time frame that focuses on basic college skills and resources needed to become successful students.
- From Fogler Library: The **Research Impact Challenge is May 4–8**; the cataloging team updated 10 ejournal records, 438 ebooks records, and 1,504 streaming video records to make them available in URSUS. The content organization and management team added 313 digital objects in Archives Space. The interLibrary loan team provided 22 items to UMaine researchers and 42 items to other libraries. The Power Researcher Challenge had 106 participants.
- Five **Honors students** were among the winners and honorable mentions at the 2020 Maine Biological and Medical Sciences Symposium! Lily Charpentier '20, Biochemistry; Ezekiel Robinson '22, Molecular and Cellular Biology; Basel White '22, Biomedical Engineering; Emma Freeman '20, Microbiology; Anna Briley '23, Biomedical Engineering.
- **For Academic Affairs**, several faculty submitted brief descriptions of how they have incorporated work with issues related to the pandemic into their courses. The applications stretch across the campus and include mathematical principles of epidemics, videos, Pandemic Palavers, surveys, essays, product plans, comparison to the Smallpox epidemic (1775–83), and plans for a course in 2022 to study the learning. Incredible work to foster insights, learning and reflection.

And last for news, but certainly not least: **Fiddleheads** were a new Maine concept for me last year and may be new to

some of you for this spring. On a hike, I took pictures of a little bunch of them and posted on Facebook as my learning Maine contribution. My family and friends encouraged me to eat the fiddleheads, but I declined. I was today years old when I read that if I had eaten those ferns, it may not have gone well for me as they should not be eaten raw, did not have the brown papery cover, and may not have been the edible variety. UMaine Cooperative Extension offers information you can count on:

- [#4198 Facts on Fiddleheads](#)
- [#4060 Facts on Edible Wild Greens in Maine](#)
- [#4266 Fruits for Health: Rhubarb](#)

We are planning for fall 2020 with scenarios of options for students and faculty. There are groups focused on safety and looking at ways to ensure that with input from our scientists who are processing the latest developments, we are preparing for contingencies. We have received over 100 ideas for the Define Tomorrow initiative (umprovost@maine.edu) in the first week and look forward to summarizing others as they arrive between now and May 15. Please submit your ideas when you can and thank you so much for all you do for UMaine. Of all the places in the world we could be at this moment, I do not believe we could be working with a better group of people than what we have right here.

Sincerely,

Faye W. Gilbert, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Provost, and
Dean of the Undergraduate School of Business
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